

# LONDON

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- London is one of the largest cities in the world and the largest city in Europe. London is one of the oldest and the most interesting cities in the world.



Traditionally London is divided into several parts: the City, the West End, the East End and Westminster. The City is the oldest part of London, its financial and business centre. The heart of the City is the Stock Exchange.



Westminster is the historical and political centre of London . It's the administrative centre. The Houses of Parliament, the seat of the British Government, are there. It's a very beautiful building with two towers and a very big clock called Big Ben



Big Ben is really the bell which strikes every quarter of an hour. The Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament is famous for its big hour bell, known as “Big Ben”. Big Ben is named after Sir Benjamin Hall. In fact Big Ben is really the name of the bell in the tower, not of the clock. It strikes every quarter of an hour.

Opposite the Houses of Parliament is Westminster Abbey. It's a very beautiful church built over 900 years ago. The tombs of many great statesmen, scientists and writers are there.



To the west of Westminster is West End. Here we find most of the big shops, hotels, museums, art galleries, theatres and concert halls. Picadilly Circus is the heart of London's West End. In the West End there are wide streets with beautiful houses and many parks, gardens and squares. To the east of Westminster is the East End, an industrial district of the capital. There are no parks or gardens in the East End and you can't see many fine houses there. Most of the plants and factories are situated there.



London has many places of interest. One of them is Buckingham Palace. It's the residence of the Queen.





The English are proud of Trafalgar Square, which was named so in memory of the victory at the battle. There in 1805 the English fleet defeated the fleet of France and Spain. Trafalgar Square was named in memory of Admiral Nelson's victory in the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The tall Nelson's Column stands in the middle of the square. Four bronze lions look at the square from the monument. There are two beautiful fountains in the square.



The Tower of London was founded by Julius Caesar, In 1066 the Tower was rebuilt by William the Conqueror. The Tower of London was used as a fortress, a royal palace, a prison and the King's Zoo. Now it is a museum where we can see the Crown Jewels and a fine collection of armour. The most beautiful building of the Tower is the White Tower. A lot of ancient traditions and customs are carefully kept in the Tower. For example, taking care of the ravens in the Tower. The legend says: till the ravens are alive England will be rich.



St. Paul's Cathedral is the largest Protestant Church in England.



The British Museum is one of the greatest museums of the world.

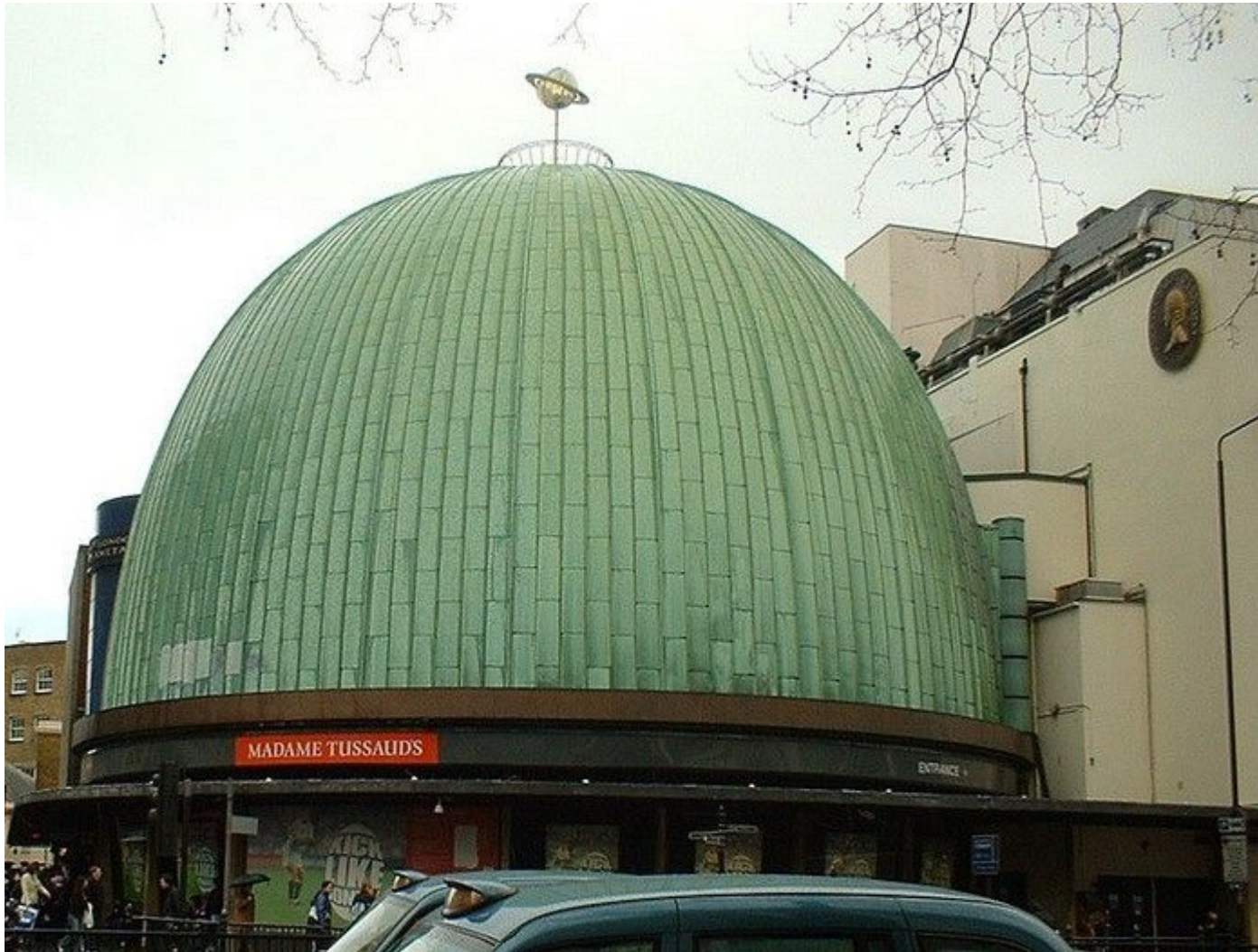
The British Museum is the biggest museum in London. It contains a priceless collection of ancient manuscripts, coins, sculptures, etc. It is famous for its library.



London stands on the river Thames. Crossing the river by the Tower Bridge you can see the Tower of London. It is one of the oldest buildings of the city.



Madam Tussaud's Waxworks .The famous Waxworks Museum has the models of famous people from pop stars to prime ministers, displays of battles and a Chamber of Horror. It has one of the largest collections of wax models in the world.



London is very rich in parks and gardens. The Royal Parks of London are St. James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and Regent's Park. Hyde Park is famous for its outdoor entertainments and its Speaker's Corner. Regent's Park has London Zoo, a boating lake and an open-air theatre, where in summer you can enjoy Shakespeare's plays. St. James's Park, the oldest London park, is very beautiful with its trees and flower beds and view of Buckingham Palace.



Regent's Park is the home of London Zoo.

